

DESCRIPTION

APPARATUS FOR PREVENTING UNAUTHORIZED USE
OF COPYRIGHT MEDIUM

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Technical Field

The present invention relates to an apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of a copyright medium, and more particularly to an apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of a copyright medium adapted to identify a purchaser by means of recognition of a purchaser's fingerprint at the time of purchasing an encrypted copyright medium.

15 Background Art

Conventionally, there have already been suggested systems wherein fingerprint data and a cipher key are written into a copyright medium. For example, Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 2002-27231 discloses a system wherein biological information such as fingerprint information is directly written and stored in a management area of a recording medium such as a compact disk (CD), a digital video disk (DVD), or the like, which includes previously recorded digital contents composed of image data such as static or dynamic images, audio data such as music or voices, and composite data including image and audio data. In this system, however, there is a

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need for the fingerprint data or the like to be written into the copyright medium at the time of delivery of the copyright medium. Therefore, the copyright medium need be post-writable, which conflicts with existing structure

5 specifications, thereby increasing a cost of mass production equipment disadvantageously. Furthermore, it is an object of the conventional system to prevent copying or reproduction of the contents, and therefore a purchaser is also inhibited to copy and use the contents. This causes
10 inconveniences such that the purchaser cannot make a backup copy in case of a product purchased being broken or that the purchaser cannot always have the copyright medium ready for use in a plurality of places, such as in his/her house, automobile, and mobile audio-visual device. When
15 being broken, the copyright medium purchased can be tracked down using an Smart card or other recording medium and fingerprint data, and thereby it can be reissued. It, however, requires extra cost and time disadvantageously.

Furthermore, Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication
20 (Kokai) No. 2002-258975 discloses an apparatus and a method, wherein a user's fingerprint image is collated with user's fingerprint data stored in an Smart card, if they match, a logon ID is read from the Smart card, and if it is coincident, the user is authorized to use a terminal
25 concerned. In the apparatus and method for recognizing fingerprint, a user is authenticated at the time of system logon.

Disclosure of the Invention

It is an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of a copyright medium adapted to identify a purchaser by means of recognition of a purchaser's fingerprint at the time of purchasing the copyright medium, free from the above disadvantages of the conventional copyright mediums.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of a copyright medium wherein a purchaser only can reproduce or copy work data recorded in the copyright medium.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is an outline system configuration diagram for purchasing a copyright medium of an apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of the copyright medium according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a diagram showing a written data structure of the copyright medium for use in the apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of the copyright medium according to the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a diagram showing a written data structure of an Smart card or other recording medium for use in the apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of the copyright medium according to the present invention; and

Fig. 4 is an outline system configuration diagram

for reproducing or copying from the copyright medium of the apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of the copyright medium according to the present invention.

5 Best Mode for Carrying out the Invention

 The present invention will now be described hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings for more detailed description.

 Referring to Fig. 1, there is shown an outline
10 system configuration diagram for purchasing a copyright medium of an apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of the copyright medium according to the present invention. It comprises an Smart card or other recording medium data reading/writing device 1, an Smart card or
15 other recording medium 2, an encrypted copyright medium 3 comprising a CD, a DVD, an MD, an HDD or the like, a copyright medium identification database 4 storing a copyright medium identification database and a cipher key database, and a fingerprint authentication device 5 for
20 collating and identifying fingerprint data. With reference to Fig. 1, the system operation in purchasing the copyright medium 3 will be described below. First, a seller of the copyright medium 3 uses the Smart card or other recording medium data reading/writing device 1 to
25 read data from the copyright medium identification database 4 in order to write copyright medium unique identification data and a cipher key for use in unique

identification of the encrypted copyright medium 3, which comprises a CD, a DVD, an MD, an HDD or the like to be purchased, into the Smart card or other recording medium

2. Moreover, fingerprint data of a purchaser of the

5 copyright medium 3 is read using the fingerprint

authentication apparatus 5. Then, the Smart card or other

recording medium data reading/writing device 1 writes the

purchaser's fingerprint data, the copyright medium unique

identification data, and the cipher key into the Smart

10 card or other recording medium 2.

Referring to Fig. 2, there is shown a diagram illustrating a written data structure of the copyright medium for use in the apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of the copyright medium according to the present invention. It includes a group of encrypted work data A1 to N indicating a plurality of music pieces or other work data and copyright medium unique identification data B.

Referring to Fig. 3, there is shown a diagram illustrating a written data structure of an Smart card or other recording medium for use in the apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of the copyright medium according to the present invention. It includes: a group of copyright medium identification data B1 to M indicating a plurality of copyright medium identification data; C1 to M indicating cipher keys corresponding to a plurality of copyright mediums; purchaser's fingerprint data D; and a

group of purchaser's private data (including expiration dates) E1 to L indicating a plurality of data varying with the purchaser.

5 If restrictions are to be imposed on the copyright medium 3, for example, by permitting the purchaser to use the copyright medium 3 only for a fixed period of time or only once at the time of purchasing the copyright medium 3, it is possible to write a group of various identification data E1 to L specifying the restrictions as
10 the group of purchaser's private data (including expiration dates) shown in Fig. 3 simultaneously.

The Smart card or other recording medium 2 can be reused and be used for purchasing a plurality of copyright
15 mediums 3 since a plurality of the copyright medium unique identification data in Fig. 2 can be written into a new Smart card or other recording medium 2 issued once.

Furthermore, in a rental service or the like of copyright mediums 3, it is also possible to delete the relevant copyright medium unique identification data B in
20 Fig. 2 when the copyright medium 3 is returned.

Still further, it is also possible to record a total number of purchases, a total period of rental service, or any other data by means of the group of the purchaser's private data (including expiration dates) E1 to L shown in
25 Fig. 3, and possible to leave individual records by associating the above data with the copyright medium unique identification data B.

Referring to Fig. 4, there is shown an outline system configuration diagram for reproducing or copying from the copyright medium of the apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of the copyright medium according to the present invention. It comprises an Smart card or other recording medium data reading/writing device 1, an Smart card or other recording medium 2, an encrypted copyright medium 3 comprising a CD, a DVD, an MD, an HDD, or the like, a fingerprint authentication device 5 for collating and identifying fingerprint data, a copyright medium reproducing/copying device 7, an image/sound reproducer 8, a copyright medium copy 9 comprising a CD, DVD, MD, HDD or other copy, and another copyright medium reproducing/copying device 10.

With reference to Fig. 4, the system operation will be described regarding a condition where the purchaser of the copyright medium reproduces or copies the data from the copyright medium 3. First, the data is loaded from the copyright medium 3 and the Smart card or other recording medium 2 into the copyright medium reproducing/copying device 7. Then, the fingerprint authentication device 5 reads a fingerprint of the purchaser of the copyright medium 3 and collates the fingerprint with purchaser's fingerprint data D recorded in the IC or other recording medium 2. If they match, the encrypted data in the copyright medium can be decoded and reproduced using the image/sound reproducer 8 or copied after transferring the

group of the encrypted work data A1 to N and the copyright medium unique identification data B to another copyright medium reproducing/copying device 10 connected.

Also when the copyright medium copy 9 is reproduced or copied, there is always a need for fingerprint authentication with the Smart card or other recording medium 2 and the fingerprint authentication device 5. Therefore, a person other than the purchaser or a third party cannot use the work data.

It should be noted, however, that the purchaser can use the same copyright medium purchased by the third party.

A feature of the present invention resides in writing purchaser's fingerprint data, identification data of the relevant copyright medium, and a cipher key into an Smart card or other recording medium when purchasing an encrypted copyright medium.

Another feature of the present invention is that a purchaser is identified by means of fingerprint authentication with an Smart card or other recording medium, which includes the recorded purchaser's fingerprint data and cipher key, before the purchaser is permitted to get decoded data out of the relevant copyright medium.

When the purchaser reproduces or copies the encrypted data of the copyright medium, the present invention can be put into practice by collating the

fingerprint data in the Smart card or other recording medium including the stored cipher key and purchaser's fingerprint data with the read fingerprint data and identifying the purchaser. Thereby, it is possible to permit the purchaser only to reproduce or copy work previously written into the recording medium such as a CD or a DVD, thus preventing distribution or sales of illegally copied work to a third party.

According to the present invention, a regular purchaser can make a copy for use in his/her own viewing or listening. Therefore, the purchaser can make a copy into a plurality of recording mediums (including a built-in memory) in his/her house, automobile, or mobile audio-visual device, if necessary, to view or listen to the work.

According to the present invention, a purchaser can be identified, and therefore there is no need to write purchaser's fingerprint data or other different data into the copyright medium individually afterward, thereby enabling mass production of copyright mediums conforming to the existing structure specifications.

According to the present invention, even if a purchaser distributes a copyright medium whose copy has been made by the purchaser to a third party, the third party cannot use it.

According to the present invention, the arrangement may be such that the Smart card or other recording medium

and the fingerprint authentication device only are detachable from the copyright medium reproducing/copying device, instead of providing a fingerprint authentication device in each of a plurality of copyright medium reproducing/copying devices. Thereby, the Smart card or other recording medium and the fingerprint authentication device can be connected to the plurality of copyright medium reproducing/copying devices.

By applying the same mechanism to sales of encrypted work data using the Internet or other means, an unauthorized use of the data can be prevented according to the present invention.

According to the present invention, it is possible to write cipher keys, which correspond to identification data of a plurality of copyright mediums respectively, into a single Smart card or other recording medium. Therefore, the purchaser can use a lot of copyright mediums with the single Smart card or other recording medium.

The present invention is readily available for a configuration in which a fingerprint authentication function is integrated with the Smart card or other recording medium.

Industrial Applicability

As described hereinabove, an apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of a copyright medium

according to the present invention is adapted to identify
a purchaser by means of purchaser's fingerprint
authentication at the time of purchasing an encrypted
copyright medium, so that only the purchaser can reproduce
5 or copy work data previously recorded in the copyright
medium. Therefore, it is useful as an apparatus for
preventing an unauthorized use of the copyright medium.